

demand that India hold a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of independence for Khalistan, for Kashmir, for Nagaland, and for all the nations seeking their freedom. Multinational states like India are inherently unstable, as the examples of Austria-Hungary and the Soviet Union show. And the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. It is time for the United States to take a stand for democracy, freedom, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, on June 5, the Council of Khalistan sponsored a demonstration to commemorate the Golden Temple attack. I would like to have the text of the Council of Khalistan's Press Release regarding this event placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

[Press Release from the Council of Khalistan
June 5, 2004]

**SIKHS COMMEMORATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sikhs from Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and elsewhere on the East Coast came to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. They chanted slogans such as "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others.

During the attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence. "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan declared its independence from India.

"Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it," he said. "Just last year, Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, a former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism," said Dr. Aulakh. "The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," he said. "Dal Khalsa, a Sikh political party, held marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan."

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not a single country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and

others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! "These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "What is a democracy doing holding political prisoners?" he asked. "This alone shows that for Sikhs and other minorities, there is no democracy, no freedom of speech."

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

**TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS
AND THEIR STATEMENT
ON IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in our Nation's RECORD the statement issued by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious on May 7, 2004, regarding the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious joins its voice with other faith-based organizations and human rights groups in expressing our abhorrence and shame at the abuse perpetrated on Iraqi prisoners by some members of the U.S. military. These inexcusable atrocities violate our common humanity.

We do not accept the explanation of our government leaders that these acts were the behavior of a few individuals. Rather, we see these abusive actions as symptomatic of a deeper, pervasive sickness. All of us share the responsibility and the blame—the soldiers who performed these heinous acts, military officials who have oversight for the treatment of prisoners, U.S. government officials who ignored reports of these abuses, and all of us who have contributed in some way to our culture of violence.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, an organization representing 73,000 Catholic women religious in the United States, urges that the following actions be taken to begin to address these serious violations of human dignity and human rights:

Now that President Bush has issued a late and limited apology for the abusive treat-

ment of Iraqi prisoners, that there be a thorough investigation, and that the results be made public

That this investigation include any personnel regardless of rank or office who had knowledge of these atrocities and allowed them to continue with impunity

That any military, intelligence, or privately contracted personnel found to have engaged in or encouraged acts of torture or inhumane treatment be prosecuted

That there be a complete and public Congressional oversight hearing and investigation into the treatment of all detainees held by the U.S. military anywhere in the world, an investigation which will allow Members of Congress to exercise their powers and rights to enable the balance of power to be restored

That all prisoners held by the United States be granted access to international monitoring groups such as the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, Amnesty International, and the United Nations

That U.S. government and military officials make a commitment to protect the human dignity and rights of the Iraqi people.

As leaders of religious congregations we reach out to our Muslim sisters and brothers. We grieve with you. We share your outrage. We will continue to pray and work for social justice, peace, and respect for human dignity and human rights of all people. As a nation we share in the shame. Together we must work to assure that these abuses never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the words of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and all they represent as we work toward human rights for all individuals around the world.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
GILLIAM, A TRUE SAN DIEGO
HERO**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to honor a truly great San Diego leader. Judge Earl B. Gilliam made a positive impact on San Diego as a judge, a teacher, and a community leader. I have introduced a bill (H.R. 4474) that will appropriately honor him by putting his name on a new post office in my district.

Earl Gilliam grew up in southeast San Diego. His parents owned a fish market on Imperial Avenue where he worked when he was not attending San Diego High School. He went on to complete his undergraduate education at San Diego State University before moving on to Hastings Law School.

Shortly after being admitted to the California Bar in 1957, he was appointed Deputy District Attorney in San Diego. He became the first African-American judge appointed to the San Diego bench 6 years later and was named Presiding Judge of the San Diego Municipal Court in 1971. Governor Jerry Brown named him to the California Superior Court in 1975 and President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in 1980. He served there for over 20 years, until his passing in 2001.

In his long, distinguished career Judge Gilliam presided over numerous noteworthy